TESTIMONIALS

OF

J. E. Wetherell, B.A.

PRINCIPAL OF

Strathroy Collegiate Institute

—AND—

Provincial Training Institute.

1891.

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To the Board of Trustees of the Collegiate Institutes of Toronto :

GENTLEMEN—

As in the course of the present year your attention will probably be directed to the selection of a principal for the new Collegiate Institute in West Toronto, I take this opportunity of making application for the position.

My qualifications for the post are briefly and clearly placed before you in the testimonials and statements that I now place in your hands for your thoughtful consideration. I believe that you will not make a choice in so important a matter without due deliberation and a careful weighing of the claims of all the applicants.

While I request you to read with care all the papers herewith presented, I would call your special attention to those that refer (1) to my career as principal of the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute for four years, and of the Strathroy Collegiate Institute and Training Institute for seven years, and (2) to the unsolicited offers with which I have recently been honored by two city Collegiate Institutes in Western Ontario.

Although the appointment of a principal for the new Collegiate Institute may not engage your attention for some time, I have thought it well, for certain reasons, to make myself known to you as a candidate for the position even at this early date.

Your obedient servant,

J. E. WETHERELL.

Strathroy, Jan. 2nd, 1891.

TESTIMONIALS.

I hereby certify that Mr. J. E. Wetherell at the College Examinations for the years '75, '76 and '77 won the position of first in the First Class in Classics, being then in his Second, Third, and Fourth Academic years respectively, and in consequence was the College Prizeman in Classics during these years.

In '77 he was awarded the First Prize for Public Speaking in the Gift of the College.

ALFRED BAKER, B. A.,
College Registrar.

University College, Toronto, June 4th, 1877.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
Registrar's Office, June 4th, 1877.

I certify that Mr. James E. Wetherell matriculated in Arts in this University in 1872 with honors in all the Subjects, and the First Scholarship in General Proficiency and a Scholarship in Classics.

He passed his Second Year's Examination in 1875, taking the First Scholarship in Classics.

In the Third Year he won the Classical Scholarship (aeq.)

At the Examinations for the Degree of B. A. he gained the First Silver Medal in the same Department, having been only a trifling number of marks behind the successful competitor for the Gold Medal.

W. G. FALCONBRIDGE, M. A.,
Registrar.

This may certify that J. E. Wetherell, B. A., has been for two years past instructor in Latin in this school. He has also taught in other departments from time to time as occasion required. In every way he has given excellent satisfaction and has proved himself an accurate scholar, an energetic and efficient teacher, and a reliable and estimable man. While I should deeply regret his loss to this Institute, I cannot but recommend him most heartily to the attention of the Trustees of any High School in need of the services of an able and accomplished teacher.

J. E. WELLS, M. A.,
Principal Literary Institute.

Woodstock, Ont., July 24th, 1879.

This certifies that J. E. Wetherell, Esq., B. A., has been Head Master in the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute for the last four and a half years.

We have much pleasure in stating that under Mr. Wetherell's management the previously prosperous state of this school has not only been maintained, but the efficiency as well as the attendance of the school increased; the able and untiring labors of the Head Master as an organizer and a teacher having contributed in a large measure to the steady progress and present excellent standing of this Institute.

We have found Mr. Wetherell as a teacher and educator of youth, and as a man of honor and integrity, worthy of our highest confidence and respect; the reason and the only reason for his leaving us is his appointment to a more remunerative position.

While we regret to lose his valuable services here, he has our best wishes for his continued success in his new field of labor.

On behalf of the Collegiate Institute Board.

J. W. POOLE, Chairman.
JOHN E. HARDING, Trustee.

St. Marys, Dec. 31st, 1883.

Learning from Mr. J. E. Wetherell, B. A., that he is an applicant for the position of principal in the new Collegiate Institute in Toronto, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity to express my high estimation of his character.

In regard to the proud position that he has won as an educator I need say nothing. His name and reputation are well known to every man that takes even a passing interest in secondary education in Ontario; but respecting the peculiar characteristics that have enabled him to reach that position, I have, perhaps, had as good an opportunity to judge as any person. Endowed with talents and abilities such as comparatively few men possess, Mr. Wetherell adds to these certain qualities, any one of which would, of itself, go far towards ensuring moderate success. Cheerfulness, industry, method, and a persistent determination to remove all obstacles are marked features of his character; and these in the early part of his career as a student, enabled him to overcome difficulties that would have discouraged and turned aside many. His ability to accomplish a large amount of work with accuracy, and in a very short time, is most remarkable. I never knew his superior in that respect.

In regard to his moral worth I can only say that, in an intimate acquaintance of more than twenty years, I have always found him a thoroughly upright man.

J. E. Dickson, B. A.,
Principal Newmarket H. S.

Newmarket, Nov. 8th, 1890.

Owen Sound, Ont., Nov. 29th, 1890.

I am pleased to testify to the merits of Mr. J. E. Wetherell, B. A., as a teacher and principal. Having been associated with him for two and a half years on the staff of the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute, during his Principalship of that school, I have

had ample opportunities of judging him as a teacher, as a disciplinarian, as a manager, and as a man.

As a teacher, Mr. Wetherell has few, if any, equals in the Province. Thorough in his questioning, clear in his explanations, he has the happy faculty of rousing in his pupils an enthusiastic interest in their work. The long-continued success of his pupils at the Departmental and University Examinations is ample proof of his thoroughness as a teacher.

His excellence as a disciplinarian and a manager is well shown in the success with which he managed the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute, and—afterwards—the Strathroy Collegiate Institute, both of which schools have won a Provincial reputation under his management.

In addition to this, Mr. Wetherell is a true gentleman, and his walk in life is one which pupils may well take as a model.

Mr. Wetherell, I may repeat, is regarded by the members of the teaching profession as the foremost Principal in this Province.

ISAAC M. LEVAN,
Principal of Coll. Inst.

I have known Mr. Wetherell as author and teacher throughout my professional experience. If I were to judge of his qualifications as a principal of a Collegiate Institute I should say he has no superior in Ontario. Learning, character, enthusiasm, manners, health and experience, all in a word that make up a teacher in the highest sense of the word he has in a degree altogether extraordinary; and this I have learned by seeing him at work in his own school. His attainments in English are especially remarkable.

M. F. LIBBY, B. A.,
English Master Parkdale Coll. Inst.

EXTRACTS AND STATEMENTS.

From the Last Official Reports of Inspector Seath.

(Extracts from the Reports of Inspector Seath, Oct. 1888 and Nov. 1889, on his Visit to the Collegiate Institute in Strathroy.)

"Organization and discipline, First-class." (1888-1889.)

"Character of the teaching in Classics and English, First-class." (1888-1889.)

"The school is, in almost every respect, in first-class condition. The management is admirable and the tone all that can be desired." (1888.)

"I have much pleasure in again bearing witness to the general excellence of the work done in this Institute. The town of Strathroy has every reason to be proud of its Institute which, so far as the teachers are concerned, has no superior in the Province." (1889.)

From the Last Official Report of Inspector Hodgson.

(Extracts from the Report of Inspector Hodgson—dated Jan. 3rd, 1888—on his Visit to the Collegiate Institute in Strathroy.)

"Organization and discipline, excellent."

"English and Classics taught with marked efficiency."

"This Institute is in a very satisfactory condition. Its record at recent Departmental and University examinations is high."

Newspaper Extracts Referring to Appointments to the Headmastership of Stratford and of London.

(Strathroy Age, Dec. 1889.)

"The Collegiate Institute Board have retained Mr. J. E. Wetherell, B. A., as Principal, and Stratford will have to look elsewhere than here for a headmaster for its school *The*

Board has advanced Mr. Wetherell's salary to $1,800, which was the initial sum he was offered by Stratford, with a promise of $2,000 within a short time. In keeping Mr. Wetherell we believe the Board here did right. We cannot r tain our school in its present state of efficiency without a bold p licy."

(Strathroy Dispatch, Dec. 1889.)

"The question of the retention of Mr. Wetherell as Headmaster of our Collegiate Institute has given the board of trustees a great deal of thought during the past week. The principal point involved was the increase of his salary to the extent of $300, making it $1800 per annum. This sum had been offered him by the Stratford Coll. Institute Board, and if Strathroy wished to keep him the advance was a necessity. Our citizens generally were a unit in desiring Mr. Wetherell's retention, but the $300 was the sticker, and some thought the increase was more than the town could stand. However, the Board gave the matter careful consideration and decided to do it, which should be accepted as the best course, all things considered. The board understand the position best, know the interests involved better, and say that the increase is in every way justified, as the present is a very critical time in the history of the school, and Mr. Wetherell is more than ever a necessity to its continued success."

(Strathroy Age, Nov. 1890.)

To the Editor of The Age:

DEAR SIR,—A statement appeared in your issue of last week which it would not be honest for me to leave uncorrected. It is quite true that *the Educational Committee of the London Collegiate Institute offered me the salary of $2,100 per annum*, but it is not correct to say that I "manfully declined" the offer on account of a previous engagement with the Strathroy Board. My services in London would not have been needed till next January, and, at the time of receiving the offer from London, I was perfectly free to make an engagement there if I had chosen to do so. My reasons for not accepting the London

offer I have stated freely to my Board and to many of my friends, but to state them publicly would be unfair to the London Committee who did me the honor of making me their first choice in the selection of a principal. I may say, however, that the strong support and generous sympathy which have always been accorded to me by every member of the Strathroy Board, had much weight in determining my future course. Nor was I uninfluenced by the prospects of the Strathroy school, brighter than ever before, and by the cordial assistance of the best staff of associates I have ever had. This is one side of the situation; but of the other—the London side—I am not free to speak publicly.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. WETHERELL.

Financial Statement re St. Mary's Collegiate Institute, 1879–1883.

Year.	Legislative Grant based on Average Attendance and Results of Examinations.	Tuition Fees.
1879-80	$1098	Free.
1880-81	1803	$519.25
1881-82	1821	652.00
1882-83	1912	733.50

Statement re Tuition Fees of Strathroy Collegiate Institute, 1883-1890.

The following statement shows the gradual increase in the revenue of Strathroy Collegiate Institute in the matter of tuition fees. The increase is due to the rapid increase in attendance, and to the ability of the Board of Trustees to exact a higher rate from time to time.

School Year.	Fees Collected.
1883	Free.
1884	$ 928
1885	1353
1886	1671
1887	1859
1888	1952
1889	1925
1890	2408

Record of St. Mary's Collegiate Institute at the Public Examinations—1879-1883.

In the period above named twenty-six pupils matriculated at Toronto University, winning fourteen first-class and twenty-nine second-class honors.

During the same time one hundred and sixty-two (162) pupils passed the examination for the various grades of teachers' certificates.

Record of Strathroy Collegiate Institute at the Public Examinations—1884-1890.

In the period above named thirty-five pupils have matriculated at Toronto University, winning thirty first-class and thirty five second-class honors and FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS.

During the same time four hundred and six (406) pupils have passed the examinations for the various grades of teachers' certificates.

Extracts from Notices of Classical Text-Books.

VIRGIL'S ÆNEID, BOOK V.

"After a careful examination of several editions of the Fifth Book of the Æneid I have given the preference to Mr. Wetherell's little work. The excellencies of this particular work are not a few. The soundest judgment and greatest care have been exercised in selecting and arranging the matter. The introduction is full and well written, the notes neat and scholarly."

S. W. PERRY, M. A.,
Classical Master Clinton Coll. Inst.

CICERO'S CATO MAJOR.

Mr. Wetherell's edition of "Cato Major" is, I should say, the best and most complete text-book ever issued with the intention of being specially adapted to the students of our High Schools. The work is a great advance upon anything of the

kind hitherto published in this country; and, indeed, I cannot but express the sentiment that if the text-books edited by our High School masters continue to improve as they have been doing, there will very soon be no need of anything additional from foreign sources. We are confident that all interested in imparting thorough scholarship will hail this excellent work as a boon to teachers and students alike."

D. S. SMITH, B. A.,
Late of Galt Coll. Inst.

VIRGIL'S ÆNEID, BOOK I.

"It is the best school edition of Virgil I have seen."

A. W. BANNISTER, B. A.,
Classical Master of Farmersville H. S.

CICERO'S CATILINE.

"In his translations of difficult passages Mr. Wetherell brings out the spirit and sense of the original with a marvellous felicity of expression."

A. G. KNIGHT, M. A.,
Head Master H. S., Campbellford.

Statement re English Text-Books.

The following is a list of English Text-Books edited by J. E. Wetherell, B. A., for use in High Schools and Collegiate Institutes:

(1) Scott's Lay of the Last Minstrel, with Biographical Notice, Critical Introduction and Notes, edited under the direction and supervision of the Education Department,—1888.

(2) Byron's Childe Harold and Prisoner of Chillon, with Life of Byron, Critical Introduction, and Notes,—1889.

(3) Longfellow's Evangeline and Minor Poems, with Life of Longfellow, Notes, and Appendices,—1890.